

# Finland

## Advising Center Network

The Fulbright Commission in Helsinki serves as the lead advising center in Finland and offers a full range of services to students from all over the country. The advisers organize information sessions on a regular basis at the center, as well as at Finnish higher education institutions. Throughout the year, the EducationUSA advisers participate in student fairs and other outreach events. The Center offers tailored training for professionals according to the need of the international education community in Finland.

## Recent Trends: US Study ▼ -6.9%

- ▶ The movement of clients from face-to-face advising towards electronic services (including a 29% increase in web traffic in 2007).
- ▶ There has been a slight change in the clientele composition; 30% of the Fulbright Center contacts are professionals – this is 10% more than last year. These partners will serve as outreach contacts throughout the country.
- ▶ Outreach activities play a key role in reaching clients.
  - Fields of study most inquired: business and economics.
  - The few sports-related inquiries are mostly about ice-hockey, swimming, and soccer.

## Resource Links

The Fulbright Center: [www.fulbright.fi](http://www.fulbright.fi)

Ministry of Education: [www.minedu.fi](http://www.minedu.fi); [www.oph.fi](http://www.oph.fi)

## Education System Overview

	Secondary Education	Higher Education (Bachelor's Degree)
Language of instruction:	Finnish and Swedish; a few in foreign languages such as English.	Finnish and Swedish; Some programs taught in English and other languages.
Years of study required:	Pre-university is 12 years. Upper secondary education is 3-years in duration.	3 to 4 years, depending on the program.
Grading system & US equivalent:	Verbal or numerical grading; 4-10 fail (4) acceptable (5) fair (6) satisfactory (7) good (8) commendable (9) excellent (10)	Verbal grading: pass/fail, or more commonly numerical: 0-5, where fail (0) acceptable (1) fair (2) satisfactory (3) good (4) excellent (5)
Scholarship for US studies:	All Finnish residents studying in recognized education institutions, in Finland or abroad, are eligible for a housing supplement and a study loan (maximum state support is ca. 650 euros/month). Other institutional scholarships available.	

By the Finnish National Board of Education

## Upcoming Events 2008-2009

The Fulbright Center intends to offer Finns new opportunities in the United States, such as funding earmarked for Finnish students and researchers. The Center informs clients about these unique opportunities through the Internet and in information sessions organized regularly for both students and professionals.

## Partnering with EducationUSA Finland

US international education experts are welcome to contact the educational advisers in Finland to discuss specific project ideas for 2008, and their involvement.

## Country Contact

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## Program Highlights 2007

- ▶ The Fulbright Center has completely renewed the website [www.fulbright.fi](http://www.fulbright.fi) creating a new and more contemporary organizational image and more informative content in Finnish for students interested in grant and study opportunities in the United States. There is also an entirely new section for Americans interested in Finland. Let us know what you think!
- ▶ The Fulbright Center extended the image update to the Fulbright Center News publication, which was redesigned and refreshed in fall 2007.
- ▶ The Fulbright Center concentration on outreach events continues to bear fruit. 30% of clients were reached through outreach visits.

## EducationUSA Students Who Made It

*"I am a sophomore studying chemistry and physics at Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I have enjoyed my time at college tremendously and Harvard as a school is the ideal fit for me: challenging, cutting-edge, diverse, and communal. My education at Harvard is possible thanks to the generous support of Fulbright Finland—I am an Undergraduate Grant recipient. The Center was also extremely helpful as I was preparing for my application process and SATs. In turn, I am happy to share my knowledge with current prospective students."*

Siri Uotila, Fulbright Center  
Undergraduate Grantee 2006-2007



## Key EducationUSA Partners

- ▶ All 20 Finnish universities and all 29 polytechnics
- ▶ 180 employment offices in Finland, especially the 26 special EURES advising centers, which provide information and advice about study opportunities abroad
- ▶ "CIRCUS group"—the cooperation of educational advisers from the Finnish Ministry of Education's Centre for International Mobility (CIMO), the Fulbright Center, the British Council, and a number of cultural institutes of specific countries in Finland

Country Statistics	2006	2007
Number of students in the US:	608	566
Total number of center inquiries:	4,437	4,053